

# Town of Tiverton



## Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

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### MEETING MINUTES

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ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: January 9, 2014 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON TOWN HALL  
343 HIGHLAND ROAD  
TIVERTON, RI 02878

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Chairman Scott Humphrey called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Susan Gill, Jonathan Cottrell, Thomas Humphrey and Leonard Schmidt. Jay Massa was present on behalf of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Item # 1      Approval of December, 2013 minutes.**

Mr. Cottrell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. T. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion.

#### **Item #2      Town meetings update:**

**Harbor Commission & Recreation Commission / Susan Gill:** Ms. Gill stated that the Commission had discussed the Sea Grant / Beach SAMP project and the issue of sea level rise. It was noted that URI was studying the issue of sea level rise effects on our coastline.

Ms. Gill also noted that the boat ramp under the Sakonnet Bridge was under construction. She noted that she had not been able to obtain an estimated date for reopening.

Ms. Gill noted that there was no Recreation Commission meeting.

**Planning Board / Len Schmidt:** Mr. Schmidt stated that he had not attended any meetings.

**Wastewater Management / Jon Cottrell:** Mr. Cottrell noted that the Wastewater Management Commission's plan had been approved by the State agencies, and that that Commission was now working on charters for the two sewer districts that would be needed. He added that legislation would be submitted for the current session. Mr.

Cottrell also noted that Wastewater had expressed an interest in meeting with the EDC to discuss EDA grant opportunities for sewer installation in commercial areas.

**Zoning Board / Thomas Humphrey:** Mr. T. Humphrey noted that there was one variance request heard at this month's meeting.

**Four Corners Merchant Group / Scott Humphrey & Susan Gill:** Ms. Gill and Mr. S. Humphrey did not attend. Mr. S. Humphrey stated that he would like to propose a proclamation in memory of the late Jim Weir. The board members concurred and Mr. S. Humphrey agreed to draft language.

Ms. Gill noted that she had also attended a URI presentation regarding home sales and values as affected by the installation of wind turbines. She stated that she had also attended a Planning Board subcommittee meeting regarding a draft ordinance on wind energy. A brief discussion ensued. She noted that in the spring, a URI study on wind turbine acoustics should be available.

**Item #3          Web site update: Susan Gill**

Ms. Gill stated that she had met with a Stephany Hessler of the Roger Williams University Community Partnerships Center to discuss the EDC's application for assistance with the website. She stated that they had reviewed projects that had been selected for by the program.

Ms. Gill stated that she had also met with graphic designer Mary Sexton regarding the aesthetics of the website. Ms. Gill suggested that the photographs should be updated, and copy should be kept to a minimum and updated frequently. She also suggested including photographs of business openings and events. Ms. Gill stated that she would continue to work on the website.

**Item #4          EDC financial marketing plan: Len Schmidt**

Mr. Schmidt distributed handouts regarding financial data for the Town. The data was reviewed, including budgeted accounts, revenue and assessments (commercial and residential). Mr. Schmidt compared commercial tax revenue with residential tax revenue. Discussion ensued regarding the structure of this comparison, and whether or not additional information should be included such as meals tax.

A discussion ensued regarding the goals of the EDC with regard to improving the residential / commercial tax revenue ratio. It was agreed that a workshop would be held on January 16, 2014 at 4:00 to discuss this issue. Tax Assessor David Robert would be invited to comment on the assessment process.

**Item #5          Tiverton Business Forum**

The forum was scheduled for February 11 at 6:00 PM at the Meeting House at Four Corners. The speakers were confirmed and RSVP's were being received.

**Item #6          Tiverton Comprehensive Plan Committee / Scott Humphrey:**

There was no update on this item.

**Item #7          New Business and Economic Development Items and Updates of Interest**

- Mr. Cottrell stated that he had received interest in the redevelopment of his north Tiverton properties, and that he would be meeting with some tax credit specialists next month. He would forward more information when it is available.
- Ms. Gill noted that Evan Smith of Discover Newport would be at the February 10 Town Council meeting to discuss the 2015 Volvo Ocean Race. She noted that the race's only North American stop would be in Newport.

**Item #8          Next Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Adjournment**

The next meeting would be held on February 13, 2014. Mr. Cottrell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. T. Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell, Mr. T. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Submitted by: Kate Michaud      Approval Date: February 13, 2014